

A LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The claims as pending are as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of low molecular weight chitosan oligosaccharides, which comprises:
 - 1) quantitatively weighing chitosan powder,
 - 2) adding an electrolyte solution to the chitosan powder to obtain a a chitosan:electrolyte solvent (W/V) ratio =1:8~30 ,
 - 3) stirring the solution to uniformity, then subjecting the solution to microwave irradiation,
 - 4) adjusting the solution to neutrality with 1~10 M NaOH, KOH or ammonia water to obtain a pale yellow floc and then settling the floc at least 30 minutes at 1~10 °C in a cold closet,
 - 5) filtering the pale yellow floc to obtain a precipitate and then desiccating the precipitate at 50~70°C to obtain a dried product,
 - 6) crushing the dried product to 20~100 mesh and assaying the molecular weight of chitosan oligosaccharides, and taking chitosan oligosaccharides having a molecular weight of 600~30000 Da as the finished product.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 2, wherein the electrolyte solution comprises an electrolyte and an acid .
4. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 3, wherein the electrolyte is NaCl, KCl, CaCl₂ or FeCl₃.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 3, wherein the ionic strength of electrolyte solution is 0.01~0.1.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 3, wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid, acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, formic acid, and wherein the concentration of tartaric acid and citric acid is 0.5~4% (W/V), and the concentration of hydrochloric acid, acetic acid and formic acid is 0.5~4% (V/V).

7. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 3, wherein the microwave energy is 480~800 W.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 3, wherein the microwave irradiation time is 1~12 minutes.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 2, 3, 7 or 8, wherein the molecular weight of the chitosan oligosaccharides obtained from the electrolyte solution comprising NaCl ranges from $2.5 \times 10^4 \sim 9.14 \times 10^3$ Da.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 2, 3, 7 or 8, wherein the molecular weight of the chitosan oligosaccharides obtained from the electrolyte solution comprising KCl ranges from $2.0 \times 10^4 \sim 6.02 \times 10^2$ Da.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to the claim 2, 3, 7 or 8, wherein the molecular weight of the chitosan oligosaccharides obtained from the electrolyte solution comprising CaCl_2 ranges from $1.8 \times 10^4 \sim 4.79 \times 10^2$ Da.

12. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of low molecular weight chitosan oligosaccharides, which comprises:

 exposing an electrolyte solution containing chitosan to microwave irradiation.